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Non-governmental organizations

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2018 regular session

New York, 29 January to 7 February and 23 February 2018

Summary

At its 2018 regular session, held from 29 January to 7 February and on 23 February 2018, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had before it 483 applications for consultative status, including 162 applications deferred from earlier sessions. Of the non-governmental organizations submitting those applications, the Committee recommended 223 for consultative status, deferred 242 for further consideration at its resumed session in 2018 and closed without prejudice consideration of 16 applications of non-governmental organizations that had failed to respond to queries over two consecutive sessions of the Committee. The Committee also had before it six requests for reclassification of consultative status; it recommended granting one of those requests and deferred its consideration of the other five. The Committee considered nine requests for a change of name, took note of five of those requests and deferred four. It also had before it 494 quadrennial reports, of which it took note of 410. The Committee heard 24 representatives of the 219 non-governmental organizations that had registered for the session.

The present report contains three draft decisions on matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council.

By draft decision I, the Council would:

(a) Grant consultative status to 223 non-governmental organizations;

(b) Reclassify one non-governmental organization from the Roster to special consultative status;

(c) Note that the Committee decided to take note of the change of name of five non-governmental organizations;

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(d) Note that the Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of 408 non-governmental organizations, including new and deferred reports;

(e) Close without prejudice consideration of the requests for consultative status made by 16 non-governmental organizations after the organizations had failed to respond to queries over the course of two consecutive sessions of the Committee;

(f) Decide not to grant consultative status to two non-governmental organizations.

By draft decision II, the Council would take note of the withdrawal of consultative status requested by three non-governmental organizations.

By draft decision III, the Council would take note of the present report.

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I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To grant consultative status to the following 223 non-governmental organizations:

Special consultative status

21st Century Community Empowerment for Youth and Women Initiative

AAINA

ACSA

Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)

African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes Education Trust

African Law Center, Inc.

African Network of Young Leaders for Peace and Sustainable Development

African Youths Initiative on Crime Prevention

Afri-health Optonet Association

AfroPresencia.com

Ageing Nepal

AIM Education & Research Society

Al Baqee Organization, Nfp

Aleradah & Altageer National Society

Alliance Vita

Al-Shafa'a Humanitarian Organization

Amazon Conservation Team

American Society of Criminology

Amis d'Afrique francophone Bénin (AMAF-Bénin)

ANA-VIE

Asociación Cubana de Producción Animal

Asociación de Pedagogos de Cuba

Associação Brasileira de Assistência às Famílias de Crianças Portadoras de Câncer e Hemopatias (ABRACE)

Association Avenir NEPAD-Congo

Association de l'unité spéciale républicaine (ASUS RELUC)

Association de lutte contre la dépendance

Association nationale des partenaires migrants

Association pour l'amélioration des conditions de vie des prisonniers en Mauritanie

Bahjat Al-Baqir Charity Foundation

Balance Promoción para el Desarrollo y Juventud

BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society

Belediye Ve Özel İdare Çalişanlari Birliği Sendikasi

Black Alliance for Just Immigration

Blessed Aid

British Columbia Council for International Cooperation

Can-Go Afar Foundation

Caring & Living as Neighbours, Incorporated (CLAN)

Center of Political Analysis and Information Security

Centralized Religious Organization — Muslim Religious Board of the Republic of Tatarstan

Centre de politique internationale et d'analyse des conflits (CDPIAC)

Centre for Youth and Development, Limited

Centre for Youth and Social Development

Centre intercommunautaire congolais pour les personnes avec handicap

Children of the Caribbean, Inc.

Children's Hope India, Inc.

China Water Engineering Association

City2000 Youth Action International

Commonwealth Medical Trust

Community Agenda for Peace, Ltd./Gte.

Community Restoration Initiative Project

Confederación Autismo España

Congregazione delle Suore Ospitaliere del Sacro Cuore di Gesù

Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba

Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, Inc.

Cooperation for Peace and Development

Corporación Equipo Colombiano Interdisciplinario de Trabajo Forense y Asistencia Psicosocial

Culture and Development East Africa

Damanhur Education

Dave Omokaro Foundation

David Lynch Foundation for Consciousness-Based Education and World Peace

Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries

Eaglesworth Human Empowerment Foundation

Eau vive internationale

Edfu Foundation, Inc.

Educators without Borders

Emperor Gaza International Foundation

Environmental Justice Foundation Charitable Trust

Ertegha Keyfiat Zendegi Iranian Charitable Institute

Ethiopia Africa Black International Congress Church of Salvation

Euro Atlantic Diplomacy Society Association

Europäische Plattform für die Gewinnung unterirdischer Energie "Earth Energy", eV

Éveil

Excellent World Foundation, Ltd./Gte.

Fahrzeugsystemdaten, GmbH (FSD)

Federación de Mujeres y Familias de Ámbito Rural

First Modern Agro. Tools — Common Initiative Group (FIMOATCIG)

Fondation Afrique développement international (FADI)

Fondation CIOMAL de l'Ordre de Malte (Campagne internationale de l'Ordre de Malte contre la lèpre)

Fondation Cordoue de Genève

Fondation Jean et Jeanne Scelles

Forum méditerranéen pour la promotion des droits du citoyen

Freehearts Africa Reach Out Foundation

Fundação Antonio Meneghetti

Fundación del Empresariado Chihuahuense, AC

Fundación Descúbreme

Fundación Educando

Giving Back Fund, Inc.

Giving Life Nature Volunteer

Global Applied Disability Research and Information Network on Employment and Training

Global Campaign for Education

Global Medicare Foundation

Goodness and Mercy Missions Common Initiative Group

Great Africa Youth Empowerment & Development Initiative

Greater Impact Foundation, Inc.

Guerrand Hermès Foundation for Peace

Hamraah Foundation

Hape Development & Welfare Association

Haritika

Heritage Life Buoy Foundation

Hope for the Needy Association

Human Development Initiatives

Independent Development Council

Institut international pour les droits et le développement

Instituto de Tecnologia e Sociedade

Instituto Global Attitude

Instituto São Paulo Sustentável

Integrated Regional Support Programme

International Academy of Environmental Sanitation and Public Health

International Cable Protection Committee, Limited

International Centre for Environmental Education and Community Development

International Centre for Women and Child

International Charitable Foundation "Alliance for Public Health"

International Confucian Association

International Housing Coalition, Incorporated

International Relief Services

International Women's Peace Group Corporation

Internationale Romani Union (IRU)

Iranian Association for United Nations Studies

Iranian Institutional Investors Association

Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnati Va Salamat Iranian

Jeunes verts — Togo

Jubilee Debt Campaign

Jubilee USA Network, Inc.

Kamer-Kadın Merkezi Eğitim Üretim Danışma, ve Dayanışma Vakfı

Kayan — Feminist Organization

Keeping Children Safe

Korea LOHAS Association

Kurdistan Institute for Human Rights

LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Líderes Promoviendo la Cultura de la Legalidad, AC

Living Proof Initiative for Hope

Majlis Kanser Nasional

Malteser International, eV

Media Foundation for West Africa

Migrant Forum in Asia, Inc. (MFA)

Mijoro Mandroso (MiMa)

More Trust

Mother of Hope Cameroon Common Initiative Group

Mouvement alternatives citoyennes

Mukti Nari-O-Shishu Unnayan Sangstha

Murna Foundation

Muslims for Progressive Values

Network of Organizations Working for People with Disabilities, Pakistan

New Vision International (NVI)

Nobel Laureate Mother Teresa Charitable Trust

Nutrition & Education International

Ocean Sanctuary Alliance, Inc.

Ohaha Family Foundation

Okuolu International, Limited

Operation Smile, Inc.

Organisation des femmes pour la formation et le développement

Organisation pour une nouvelle vision de la jeunesse d'Haïti (OPNVJH)

Organisation sociale des missionnaires pour l'éducation des enfants démunis

Österreichischer Bundesverband — Österreichische Lebens – und Rettungs – Gesellschaft

Oui pour une enfance noble

Pak Women

Panafrican Women Association (PAWA)

Parents-enfants maltraités — Renouveau et espérance pour les familles

Partage et action en synergie pour le développement

Partenariat français pour l'eau (PFE)

PathFinders Justice Initiative, Inc.

Patriotic Vision

Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti, Selangor

Persatuan Pengasih Malaysia

Persons with Disability Initiative, Nigeria

Public Eye, Verein auf der Grundlage der Erklärung von Bern, Bern

Queensland Advocacy, Incorporated

Radha Soami Sat Sang Beas

Rastriya Adiwasi Janajati Mahila Manch Nepal

Reachout and Smile Initiative for Social Empowerment

Rehabilitation International — Arab Region

Reseau d'intervention pour la protection et promotion de l'enfant et famille dans la communauté

Resource Centre for Environmental and Sustainable Development

Resource Institute of Social Education

Reyada for Capacity Building Studies & Consultations

Ruh Sağlığında İnsan Hakları Girişimi Derneği

Rural Care Ministries, Jupudi

Sahara Economic Development Organization

Sankalpa — Women Alliance for Peace and Democracy

Save Cambodia

SDSN Association, Inc.

Semilla Warunkwa

Shalva — The Israel Association for Care and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, RA

Shola Mese Foundation

Shorab Ali Dewan Cultural Society

SIETAR Austria/Gesellschaft für interkulturelle Bildung, Training und Forschung

Silatech

Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association

Social Activities for Environment (SAFE)

Soulforce, Inc.

SPHER International, Ltd.

Sudan Volunteers Organization for Human Rights and Development

Suivi des couvents vodoun et conservation du patrimoine occulte (SUCOVEPO)

Support Women Initiatives to Transform Children

Tarhuk Samaj

Terra Renaissance

The Arab Chamber of Commerce & Industry

The Athena Fund — Laptop Computer for Each Teacher

The Bahrain Young Ladies Association

The Foundation for AIDS Research

The Global Alliance for TB Drug Development, Inc.

The Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

The Order of St. Stanislas eV/Der Orden des Heiligen Stanislaus, eV

The PsySiP Project

The Vision for Teenagers Adolescents and Youths Wellbeing Initiative

The Youth Coalition for Education in Liberia, Inc. (YOCEL)

Together for Safer Roads, Inc.

Truth in Reality, Inc.

Udayan Care

Uganda Youth Development Link

UNESCO Center for Peace

Union internationale des transports publics

Universal Rights Group

University College Dublin

Unspoken Smiles Foundation

Voice of Animal — Nepal

We Yone Child Foundation Sierra Leone

Welfare

Wockhardt Foundation

World Protection for Dogs and Cats in the Meat Trade

Young Diplomats of Canada

Youth Foundation of Bangladesh

Youth Reformation and Awareness Centre

(b) To reclassify one non-governmental organization from the Roster to special consultative status:

International Federation of Consular Corps and Associations

(c) To note that the Committee decided to take note of the change of name of the following five non-governmental organizations:

Amuta for NGO Responsibility (special, 2013) to Institute for NGO Research

Centre national d'information sur les droits des femmes et des familles (CNIDFF) (special, 2009) to Fédération nationale des CIDFF

Kids Included Together San Diego Inc. (special, 2015) to Kids Included Together

Smile of the Child (special, 2008) to The Smile of the Child

ZOA Vluchtelingenzorg (special, 2012) to Stichting ZOA

(d) To note that the Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of the following 408 non-governmental organizations:[1]

Abdul Momen Khan Memorial Foundation (Khan Foundation)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service (Victoria)

[1] The reports listed are for the 2013–2016 period, except where stated otherwise in parentheses.

Academy for Mobilizing Rural-Urban Action through Education

Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy

Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs

Action solidaire pour un développement entretenu à la base

Adalah — Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel

Adolescent Health and Information Projects

Adventist Development and Relief Agency

Advocates for Youth

African Artists for Development

African Citizens Development Foundation

African Women's Association

Agence internationale pour le développement

Agrenska Foundation (Grosshandlare Axel H Agrens Donationsfond)

AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition

Albert Schweitzer Institute

All India Movement for Seva

All-China Environment Federation

Alliance Creative Community Project

Almanar Voluntary Organization

Alsalam Foundation

American Association of Jurists

American Bar Association

American Diabetes Association, Inc.

American Heart Association, Inc.

American Jewish Committee

American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit

Amis des étrangers au Togo (ADET)

Amuta for NGO Responsibility

Arab African American Womens' Leadership Council, Inc.

Arab Mexican Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Civil Association

Archbishop E Kataliko Actions for Africa (KAF)

Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center

Asociación de Antiguas Alumnas del Colegio Madres Irlandesas

Asociación Gilberto, AC

Asociación Nacional Cívica Femenina

Association camerounaise pour la prise en charge de la personne âgée (ACAMAGE)

Association culturelle d'aide à la promotion éducative et sociale

Association d'aide à l'éducation de l'enfant handicapé (AAEEH)

Association de solidarité, aide et action enfance Mali "ASAA/EM Jigiya Ton"

Association for Citizen's Tolerance and Cooperation

Association for Protection of Refugee and Internal Displaced Women and Children

Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary

Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

Association internationale des médecins pour la promotion de l'éducation et de la santé en Afrique

Association mauritanienne pour la santé de la mère et de l'enfant

Association of African Women for Research and Development

Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation (RAIPON)

Association of the Bar of the City of New York

Association Points-cœur

Association pour l'action sociale et le développement

Association pour la promotion de la lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes et la participation au développement de la femme africaine

Association sénégalaise pour la promotion des énergies renouvelables "KokkiEnergie"

Association togolaise d'étude de recherche et d'appui au développement humain durable (ASTERADHD)

Associazione Amici dei Bambini

Associazione Casa Famiglia Rosetta (ACFR)

Asylum Access

AUA Americas Chapter, Inc.

Auspice Stella

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

Australian Lesbian Medical Association

Autre vie

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

Barinu Institute for Economic Development

Be Active, Be Emancipated (BABE)

Benin Environment and Education Society

British Overseas NGOs for Development (BOND) (2012–2015)

Büro zur Umsetzung von Gleichbehandlung (BUG), eV

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace

Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict (CIVIC)

Canadian Council of Churches

Canadian Voice of Women for Peace

Carré Géo & Environnement

Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir

Caucasian Feminist Initiative

Center for Inquiry

Center for Migration Studies of New York

Center for Practice-Oriented Feminist Science (PROFS)

Center for Reproductive Rights, Inc.

Centre africain de recherche industrielle (CARI)

Centre d'études diplomatiques et stratégiques

Centre for Climate Change & Environmental Study

Centre for Community Economics & Development, Consultants Society

Centre national d'information sur les droits des femmes et des familles (CNIDFF)

Centres d'accueil de l'espoir (CAES)

Centrist Democratic International (1998–2001)

Centrist Democratic International (2002–2005)

Centro de Investigación Social, Formación y Estudios de la Mujer

Centro Integrado de Estudos e Programas de Desenvolvimento Sustentável

Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental, AC

Centro Nazionale di Prevenzione e Difesa Sociale

Centro Panafricano Kituo Cha Wanafrika

Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Genero

Chaithanya Samskarika Vedi Chennayangaloor, PO

Charity Foundation for Special Diseases

Child Foundation

Children of a Better Time

China Arms Control and Disarmament Association

China Family Planning Association

China Soong Ching Ling Foundation

Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

Christian Children's Fund

Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants

CIVICUS — World Alliance for Citizen Participation (2012–2015)

Coalition against Trafficking in Women

Comité français des organisations non gouvernementales pour la liaison et l'information des Nations Unies

Commission on Voluntary Service and Action, Inc.

Community Emergency Response Initiative

Community Youth Network Program (CYNP)

Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel — Carmelite NGO

Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI) (2011–2014)

Consortium for Street Children

Consumers International

Contact Base

Cooperativa Tecnico Scientifica di Base (COBASE)

Coordinadora Andina de Organizaciones Indigenas

Cork Forest Conservation Alliance

Corporación Centro de Estudios de Derecho Justicia y Sociedad

Corporación Colombia Unida por el Respeto al Adulto Mayor (COR PRO Adulto Mayor) Corporation Colombia United for the Respect of the Elder]

Corporación Red Nacional de Mujeres Comunales, Comunitarias, Indígenas y Campesinas de la República de Colombia

Corporate Accountability International

Corporativa de Fundaciones, AC

Deutsches Komitee für UN-Women, eV

Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) America

Dui Hua Foundation

Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative

Eastern Alliance for Safe and Sustainable Transport

EastWest Institute

English International Association of Lund (Sweden)

Equitas centre international d'éducation aux droits humains

European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights

European Solidarity towards Equal Participation of People

Fairleigh Dickinson University

Family and Life

Family Educational Services Foundation

Farmers Educational & Cooperative Union of America

Fazaldad Human Rights Institute

Federation européenne des centres de recherche et d'information sur le sectarisme (FECRIS)

Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO)

Federation of Cuban Women

Felix Varela Center

Feminenza Kenya

Feminist League

Femmes autochtones du Québec, Inc./Quebec Native Women, Inc.

Fondation pour la promotion de la santé et le développement de la recherche (FOREM)

Fondation pour les études et recherches sur le développement international

Fondation Surgir

Fondazione Opera Campana dei Caduti

Fondazione San Patrignano

Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan

Foundation for Autism Support and Training

Foundation for Preventing Youth Violence (FPYV)

Foundation for Responsible Media

Freann Financial Services, Limited

Friends of ISTAR

Fundación de Ayuda y Promoción de las Culturas Indígenas Rosa Collelldevall

Fundación Familias Monoparentales Isadora Duncan

Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo

Fundación Intervida

General Arab Women Federation

Genève pour les droits de l'homme : formation internationale

Geopolitikai Tanács Közhasznú Alapítvány

Gherush92 — Committee for Human Rights

Global Environmental Action (GEA)

Global Foundation for Democracy and Development, Inc.

Global Health and Awareness Research Foundation (GAF)

Global Helping to Advance Women and Children

Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS

Global NeuroCare

Global Political Trends Center

Global Race against Poverty and HIV/AIDS in Nigeria

Global Welfare Association

Global Youth Action Network

Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America

Green Cross International

Hadassah — The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.

Haiti Mission

Halley Movement for Social and Community Development

HEDA Resource Centre

Hong Kong Women Professionals and Entrepreneurs Association

Human Security Initiative Organization

Ilitha Labantu

Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society

Indian Dreams Foundation

Indigenous World Association

Inga Foundation

Initiatives of Change International

Innu Council of Nitassinan (Innu Nation)

Institute for Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding

Institute for Practical Idealism

Institute for Security Studies

Institute of Cultural Affairs International

Integrated Care Society

Inter-American Housing Union

Inter-Faith Vision Foundation Cameroon

International Academy of Architecture

International Air Transport Association

International Association for Advancement of Space Safety

International Association of Applied Psychology

International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics

International Association of University Presidents

International Commission of Jurists

International Commission of Jurists (2009–2012)

International Confederation of Christian Family Movements

International Council for Caring Communities, Inc.

International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment

International Council for the Day of Vesak (ICDV)

International Council of Management Consulting Institutes, Inc.

International Development Enterprises (India)

International Eurasia Press Fund (2011–2014)

International Federation of Building and Wood Workers

International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations

International Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse

International Federation of Women in Legal Careers

International Institute of Administrative Sciences

International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences

International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples

International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEL)

International Peace and Development Organization

International Road Transport Union

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, Inc.

International Social Science Council

International Social Service (2011–2014)

International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics

International Union of Parents and Teachers

International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs

International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations

Iranian Elite Research Center

Iraqi Al-Mortaqa Foundation for Human Development

Iraqi Development Organization (2012–2015)

Islamic Relief

Italian Centre of Solidarity

Japan Asia Cultural Exchanges (JACE)

Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society

Jordanian Women Union

Kevoy Community Development Institute

KinderEnergy, Inc.

Korea Women's Associations United (KWAU)

Korean Council for Local Agenda 21

Korean Foundation for World Aid

Latin American and Caribbean Continental Organization of Students

Latin American Federation of Associations of Relatives of Disappeared Detainees

Law Association for Asia and the Pacific

Le collectif des femmes africaines du Hainaut

League of Kenya Women Voters

League of Women Voters of the United States

Les Rencontres du Mont-Blanc — Forum international de l'économie sociale/The Mont-Blanc Meetings — International Forum of the Social Economy

Lift up Care Foundation

Living Bread International Church, Inc.

Mama Zimbi Foundation

Marie Stopes International

Mata Amritanandamayi Math

Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association

Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (MEXFAM)

MINBYUN — Lawyers for a Democratic Society

Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, Inc., Education Fund

Modern Advocacy, Humanitarian, Social and Rehabilitation Association

Montage Initiative, Inc.

Mosaic

Narcotics Anonymous World Services

National Association of Cuban Economists

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials

National Council of Women of Malta

National Council on Family Relations

National Union of Jurists of Cuba

National Youth Council of Russia

Negev Coexistence Forum

Netherlands Association of Women's Interests, Women's Work and Equal Citizenship

Network for Women's Rights in Ghana

New Humanity

New Zealand Family Planning Association, Inc.

Nigerian Institute of Homeopathy

Nonviolence International

Nonviolent Peaceforce (2011–2014)

Nour Foundation

Observatorio Regional para la Mujer de América Latina y el Caribe, AC

Omega Research Foundation, Limited

Open City International Foundation, Inc.

Organisation de défense de l'environnement au Burundi

Organisation des laïcs engagés du Sacré-Cœur pour le développement de Kimbondo

Organisation internationale pour la sécurité des transactions électroniques (OISTE)

Organisation mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale

Osservatorio per la Comunicazione Culturale e l'Audiovisivo nel Mediterraneo e nel Mondo

Outreach Social Care Project

Oxfam GB

Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association

Partnership Africa Canada

Passionists International

Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation

Pathways to Peace

Pax Romana — International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs and International Movement of Catholic Students

Peace Corps of Nigeria

Peace Worldwide

Penal Reform International

People with Disability Australia, Inc.

People's Development Initiatives (PDI)

Physicians for Human Rights (2011–2014)

Pitirim Sorokin — Nikolai Kondratieff International Institute

Population Media Center, Inc.

Project Kesher

Qatar Charitable Society

Reach Out to Asia (ROTA)

Reforestamos México, AC

Refugee Council of Australia

Regards de femmes

Regional Public Charitable Organization "Drug Abuse Prevention Centre"

Registered Trustees of Pastoralists Indigenous Non-Governmental Trust (PINGOs Forum)

Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary

Rescue and Hope (RAH)

Robert F Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Rotary International

Rural Health Care Foundation

Sadguru Sadafaldeo Vihangam Yoga Sansthan

Save the Children International

Science of Spirituality, Inc.

Shushilan

Sign of Hope, eV/Hoffnungszeichen, eV

Simply Help, Inc.

Sisters Inside, Inc.

Sisters of Charity Federation

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (2011 – 2014)

Society for International Development

Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of Environment

Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer (MAHAK)

Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland, Limited (SIGBI)

Stichting Both Ends

Stichting Coalition for Work with Psychotrauma and Peace

Strategic Humanitarian Services

Sulabh International (2011–2014)

Summer Institute of Linguistics

Suomen YK-liitto, Ry

Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN)

Support Home of God Project (SuhoG Project)

Susila Dharma International Association

Tarumitra

The BARKA Foundation, Inc.

The Catholic Health Association of India

The Institute of Economic Strategies

The Leprosy Mission International

The Rockefeller Foundation

The Society for the Policing of Cyberspace

The World Habitat Foundation (2012–2015)

Track Impunity Always (TRIAL)/Association suisse contre l'impunité

Treasureland Health Builders

UNANIMA International

Under the Same Sun Fund

Unión de Asociaciones Familiares

Union of Arab Jurists

Union of Ibero-American Capitals — Intermunicipal Financial and Economic Centre for Advice and Cooperation

Union syndicale des agriculteurs (USA)

Unitarian Universalist Association

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

United for Intercultural Action

United Methodist Church — General Board of Global Ministries (2012–2015)

United Nations Association of Mauritius (MUNA)

United Nations Association of New Zealand, Incorporated

Universal Peace Federation (2012–2015)

US Federation for Middle East Peace, Inc.

US Human Rights Network, Inc. (2012–2015)

Vida y Familia de Guadalajara, AC

Vietnam Peace and Development Foundation

Villes de France

Virtue Foundation

Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo

Water Safety Initiative Foundation

WaterAid

Wellesley Centers for Women (WCW)

Widows Rights International

Women and Memory Forum

Women Awareness Center Nepal

Women Environmental Programme

Women for Women International

Women in Dialog

Women's Bar Association of the State of New York

Women's Board Educational Cooperation Society

Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling

Women's Federation for World Peace International

Women's International Democratic Federation

Women's Learning Partnership for Rights, Development and Peace

Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

World Association of Former United Nations Interns and Fellows

World Evangelical Alliance

World Faith, Inc.

World Family of Radio Maria NGO

World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations

World Hepatitis Alliance

World Kabaddi Federation

World Public Forum — Dialogue of Civilizations

World Russian People's Council

World Stroke Organization

World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises

World Water Council

Yelen

Yoga in Daily Life USA

Yogaathma Foundation

Young Naturalist Network

Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)

Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa

Youth Awareness and Guidance Organisation, Agbarha-Otor

Youth for a Child in Christ

Youth Net and Counselling

Youth Path Organisation

Zenab for Women in Development, Inc.

Zoï Environment Network

Zonta International

(e) To close without prejudice consideration of the requests for consultative status made by the following 16 non-governmental organizations after those organizations had failed, following three reminders over the course of two consecutive sessions of the Committee, to respond to queries posed to them by members of the Committee:

American Jewish World Service, Inc.

Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment

Association organisation populaire pour l'enseignement des droits humains

Center for Democracy and Technology

International Gulf Organization, FZ-LLC

International Media Support (IMS)

North Korea Intellectuals Solidarity

Orion Projects, Private Limited

People's Right to Information and Development Implementing Society of Mizoram (PRISM)

Red de Seguridad y Defensa de América Latina, Asociación Civil (RESDAL)

Saafah Foundation for Transparency and Integrity

Society without Violence Non-Governmental Organization

Tabriz Green Hearts Charity Society

Vietnamese Overseas Initiative for Conscience Empowerment (VOICE)

World Learning, Inc.

Yay Gender Harmony

(f) Not to grant consultative status to the following two non-governmental organizations:

Iran Human Rights Documentation Center

US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea

Draft decision II
Requests for withdrawal of consultative status

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the requests for withdrawal of consultative status by the following three non-governmental organizations, which have ceased to exist:

Asociación de Técnicos Superiores y Peritos Judiciales de Andalucía

Honeypot Village

Partnership Network International

Draft decision III
Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2018 regular session

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2018 regular session.

II. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

2. The Committee considered agenda items 3 (a), Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee, and 3 (b), New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification, at its 1st to 12th meetings, held from 29 January to 5 February 2018, and at its 15th meeting, held on 7 February. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Compilations of applications received from non-governmental organizations for consultative status deferred from previous sessions of the Committee held from 2008 to 2017 (E/C.2/2018/CRP.1) and requests for reclassification deferred from 2015 to 2017 (E/C.2/2018/CRP.2);

(b) Memorandums by the Secretary-General containing new applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations (E/C.2/2018/R.2, E/C.2/2018/R.2/Add.1-26;

(c) Memorandum by the Secretary-General containing new requests for reclassification to be considered by the Committee (E/C.2/2018/R.3);

(d) Memorandum by the Secretary-General containing a deferred request for a merger (E/C.2/2018/CRP.3);

(e) Memorandum by the Secretary-General containing new requests from non-governmental organizations requesting a change of name (E/C.2/2018/CRP.5);

(f) Memorandum by the Secretary-General containing a request for a change of name by organizations in consultative status deferred from previous sessions of the Committee (E/C.2/2018/CRP.6);

(g) Memorandum by the Secretary-General containing requests from non-governmental organizations for withdrawal of status (E/C.2/2018/CRP.33).

A. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee

3. The Committee considered item 3 (a) of its agenda, Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee, at its 7th to 12th meetings, held from 1 to 5 February 2018, and at its 15th meeting, held on 7 February. The Committee considered a total of 162 deferred applications for consultative status.

Applications recommended

4. The Committee recommended that the Council grant consultative status to 23 organizations (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (a)):

Special consultative status

AIM Education & Research Society

Aleradah & Altageer National Society

Center of Political Analysis and Information Security

Children's Hope India, Inc.

Commonwealth Medical Trust

Eaglesworth Human Empowerment Foundation

Emperor Gaza International Foundation

Ertegha Keyfiat Zendegi Iranian Charitable Institute

Fondation Cordoue de Genève

Global Campaign for Education

International Charitable Foundation "Alliance for Public Health"

International Women's Peace Group Corporation

Jubilee USA Network, Inc.

Keeping Children Safe

Malteser International, eV

Migrant Forum in Asia, Inc. (MFA)

Ohaha Family Foundation

Okuolu International, Limited

Pak Women

Soulforce, Inc.

Uganda Youth Development Link

Universal Rights Group

Wockhardt Foundation

Applications deferred

5. The Committee deferred its consideration of the applications of the following 121 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), pending the receipt of responses to questions posed to them by the Committee during its 2018 regular session:

Akhil Bharatiya Human Rights Organisation

Alliance to Renew Co-operation among Humankind

Al-Marsad — The Arab Centre for Human Rights in the Golan Heights, RA

Ambedkar Center for Justice and Peace

American Human Rights Council

AMPHTS

Anti-Corruption Foundation

Arab Center for the Promotion of Human Rights

Arab-European Center of Human Rights and International Law (AECHRIL)

Asia Center for Human Rights

Asociación Red de Mujeres Afrolatinoamericanas, Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora

Association Concerning Sexual Violence against Women

Association pour la défense des droits de l'homme et des revendications démocratiques/culturelles du peuple Azerbaidjanais, Iran — "ARC"

Assyrian Aid Society of America, Inc.

Bahrain Center for Human Rights

Bureau international pour le respect des droits de l'homme au Sahara Occidental

Cameroon League for Development (CAMLEAD)

Center for Constitutional Rights, Inc.

Centre universitaire de droit international humanitaire

Centre Zagros pour les droits de l'homme

Christian Solidarity International (CSI)

Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights

Civil Society Support Center NGO "SEG"

Congrès mondial Amazigh (CMA)

Congrès national des Arméniens occidentaux (CNAO)

Coordination Waï (Éveil) relative à l'unité nationale et la lutte contre l'esclavage

Coptic Solidarity

Dalit Welfare Organization

Danjuma Atta Eye Foundation

Dansk Flygtningehjælp

Database Center for North Korean Human Rights (NKDB)

Diakonia

Diplomatic Mission Peace and Prosperity

Dream Touch for All

Electronic Frontier Foundation, Inc.

Embajada Mundial de Activistas por la Paz Corp./Global Embassy of Activists for Peace Corp.

Engineering Association for Development and Environment

Establishment of Sheikh Thani bin Abdullah Al Thani for Humanitarian Services

Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network

European Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Limited

Fair Trials International

Family Policy Institute

Federal Lezghin National and Cultural Autonomy

Formation Awareness and Community Empowerment Society Pakistan (FACES Pakistan)

GAHT-US Corporation

Global Forum for Media Development

Global Network of Sex Work Projects Limited

Global Peace Foundation

Gulf Centre for Human Rights, Limited (GCHR)

Gulshan-e-John

Hokok Coalición Internacional Contra la Impunidad

Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation

Inimõiguste Instituut

Insamlingsstiftelsen Kvinna till Kvinna

International Association of Genocide Scholars, Inc.

International Child Rights Center

International Dalit Solidarity Network

International Human Right Organization

International Network of International Diplomacy, International Law and Human Rights (NDLH)

International Non-Olympic Committee

International Non-Olympic University

International Organisation to Preserve Human Rights, Ltd.

Interregional Non-Governmental Organization "Committee against Torture"

Iraqi Al-Amal Association

Islamic African Relief Agency (IARA)

Jerusalem Institute of Justice

Jeunesse étudiante tamoule

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, eV

Korea Human Rights Foundation

Legal Advice Centre

Mangfoldhuset

Mittetulundusühing Fenno-Ugria Asutus

Mkokoteni Aid Development Organization

Muslim Hands

National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)

NK Watch

Norsk organisasjon for reform av marihuanalovgivningen

Pak Special Persons Welfare Society

Pakistan International Human Rights Organization

Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays, Inc (P-FOX)

Peace Brigades International

Peace Islands Institute, Inc.

Peace Research Institute Oslo

Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Inc.

Public Aid Organization

Reprieve

Research Society of International Law

Right Livelihood Award Foundation

Salam for Democracy and Human Rights

Scholé Futuro

Sex & Samfund

Sheikh Eid Bin Mohammad Al Thani Charitable Association

Social Services Trust

Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea

Stichting Choice for Youth and Sexuality

Stichting Pro Papua

Swadhikar

Syrian American Medical Society Foundation

The Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice

The Arab Council for Supporting Fair Trial

The F W de Klerk Foundation Trust

The International Center for Supporting Rights and Freedoms

The New Woman Foundation

The Simons Foundation

The Union of Non-Governmental Associations — The International Non-Governmental Organization "The World Union of Cossack Atamans"

The Voice Society

Turkiye Diyanet Vakfi

United Sikhs

USA Refugees & Immigrants Corp.

Vang Pao Peace Institute

V-Day Karama

We Care for Humanity

West Papua Interest Association

White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood, Inc.

Women Living under Muslim Laws (WLUML) — International Solidarity Network

WomenNC — NC Committee for CSW/CEDAW

Women's Freedom Forum, Inc.

World Association for Sexual Health

World Without Genocide

Youth Resource, Information, Support, Education, Limited (Youth RISE)

Applications closed without prejudice

6. At its 15th meeting, on 7 February, the Committee decided to close without prejudice consideration of the applications of 16 NGOs that had not responded to the Committee's questions despite three reminders sent to the organizations (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (e)).

Syrian American Medical Society Foundation

7. At its 9th meeting, on 2 February 2018, the Committee considered the application of the non-governmental organization Syrian American Medical Society Foundation. Following a request for more information by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the representative of the United States of America took the floor to express her strong support for the organization's application for consultative status and encouraged other Committee members to support its accreditation. She stated that the organization was highly deserving of consultative status, on the basis of the important work that it undertook in providing medical care and other assistance to civilians caught in the crossfire in the Syrian Arab Republic. Lauding the work of the organization as heroic and remarkable, she reiterated her appeal to Committee members to fully support its application for consultative status.

8. In response, the representative of the Russian Federation stated that the activities of the organization were extremely biased and contradictory. He asserted that there was a need for clarification on the organization's work and questioned how it was able to work in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic without authorization to do so. He stated that he had a negative view of the organization because it was working in a territory without the authorization of the host State and receiving income mainly from another Government.

9. The observer for the Syrian Arab Republic recalled that the organization had applied for consultative status several years earlier but stated that it was not registered in the Syrian Arab Republic. He stated that the organization was part of a military terrorist wing supporting terrorism in his country, that it had been designated as a terrorist organization by the Security Council and that it transported arms as part of

its humanitarian assistance. He asserted that his country had a right, like other Member States, to protect its borders, reiterated that the organization did not have a licence to operate in his country and denied that it was providing assistance to Syrians. He added that the organization was providing support to terrorist organizations and that it should not be granted consultative status because it had been designated as a terrorist organization.

10. In response, the representative of the United States cautioned Member States against making unfounded allegations against legally registered organizations. She maintained that the United States did not have any information validating the claims made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic and argued that Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 did not require an organization to be registered in a country for it to work there. She deplored the politicization of the Committee and encouraged the Chair not to permit observer States to impugn the actions and motivations of reputable and legally established organizations. She expressed concern that the Committee, which was the main forum for the accreditation of NGOs, had become a hostile forum where NGOs were subjected to unfounded attacks by Member States driven by a political agenda.

11. The representative of the Russian Federation recalled that the Committee had transmitted several requests for information to NGOs, including questions posed by the United States in relation to a Russian research NGO. He questioned whether it was possible for an organization to work in the United States without the authorization of the country in the same way that the Syrian American Medical Society Foundation was working in the Syrian Arab Republic. In response, the representative of the United States clarified that there was no legal requirement for the registration of NGOs in the United States and that legal organizations could operate freely in the country. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran deplored the out-of-context statements made after questions had been posed regarding this organization. He recalled the routine working method of the Committee whereby when members had questions, they would raise them, and if there was nothing to hide, the organizations would respond. He encouraged members to familiarize themselves with the working methods of the Committee before taking political positions on certain NGOs. He stated that problems arose in instances where applications before the Committee related to organizations that were funded by foreign Governments to conduct intrusive activities in other countries. He pointed out that, during its lifespan, the Committee had recommended that consultative status be granted to numerous NGOs and noted that only 162 applications remained deferred. He argued that the majority of those deferrals were the result of the abuse of NGO status by certain Member States. He asserted that the Committee had a responsibility to clarify the nature of NGO activities that were considered unclear. He reiterated that the Committee had recommended thousands of NGOs for consultative status in the past. He added that if a Member State funded an organization with a specific political agenda, the Committee should not be expected to take that as a simple matter. He asserted that the same Member States that were responsible for politicizing the work of the Committee were accusing it of being politicized.

12. The observer for the Syrian Arab Republic recalled several Security Council resolutions and reiterated that some organizations were providing support to terrorist organizations. As a result, his Government did not permit organizations to work on its territory without authorization.

US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea

13. At its 10th meeting on 2 February 2018, the Committee considered the application of the non-governmental organization US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea. The representative for the United States noted that the application of

the organization had been pending before the Committee since May 2016. She stated that the NGO had been asked the same questions repeatedly and urged delegations to eliminate the practice of repeating questions session after session. She stressed that the role of the Committee was to determine whether an NGO could make a meaningful contribution to the work of the Economic and Social Council and stated that the organization in question met the criteria set out in resolution 1996/31 and therefore deserved accreditation. She introduced a motion to recommend granting special consultative status to the organization and encouraged other Committee members to support the motion.

14. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran objected to the motion introduced by the representative of the United States and asserted that the move undermined the authority of the Committee. He observed that the application of the organization was relatively new and had only recently been introduced to the Committee. He stated that the approach of the United States was not constructive towards the cause of NGOs and the promotion of the role of civil society in the work of the United Nations. He recalled that the provisions and principles of resolution 1996/31 were clear and called for them to be respected. He encouraged Committee members to avoid the further politicization of the work of the Committee and rejected the motion proposed by the representative of United States.

15. The representative of the United States expressed regret that the Committee members had failed to reach a consensus on recommending the organization for special consultative status and called for a vote on the proposed motion pursuant to rule 59 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

16. The observer for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea recalled that consideration of the application of the US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea had been deferred many times in the past because it was not qualified as an NGO. He asserted that the organization was a government affiliate disguised as an NGO in civil society, adding that it was funded and controlled by the Government of the United States to carry out its hostile policy towards his Government. He further stated that the activities of the organization infringed upon the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and violated the principles of non-politicization, impartiality and non-selectivity, as well the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and resolution 1996/31. He therefore urged the Committee not to recommend granting consultative status to the organization.

17. Making a general statement before the vote and speaking in support of the motion to grant consultative status to the organization, the observer for the European Union underlined the importance of giving fair and reasonable consideration to all applications before the Committee. While noting that scrutiny of applications for Council accreditation was indispensable, he stressed that legitimate organizations should be granted accreditation in a timely manner and should only be required to respond to questions that were properly motivated and in line with the letter and spirit of resolution 1996/31.

18. The representative of China made a statement before the vote. He noted that the application before the Committee had first been presented to the Committee in May 2016 and that, although the organization had responded to questions already raised, the Committee still had other questions for the organization. It was therefore not the right time to recommend granting consultative status to the NGO. He indicated that China preferred to maintain the solidarity of the Committee and that his delegation would vote against the motion to grant consultative status to the organization.

19. The representative of the Russian Federation also made a statement before the vote to clarify the position of his delegation. In response to the comments made by

the representative of the United States and the observer for the European Union that the organization had been asked numerous questions repeatedly by the Committee, he drew their attention to two other NGO applications that had been pending before the Committee for longer periods of time and questioned why the delegations had not proposed a vote on those applications. He noted that, in comparison with other applications, the application of the US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea had only been before the Committee for a year and a half. Citing the political aspects of the motion, he stated that his delegation would vote against the motion to recommend granting consultative status to the NGO and appealed to other Committee members to do the same. He also appealed to other independent nations to vote against granting consultative status to the organization in the event that such a motion was presented to the Council in the future.

20. The representative of Uruguay took the floor to express her strong support for the motion, stating that, in her view, the NGO complied with the criteria set out in resolution 1996/31 and should therefore not be denied consultative status.

21. The Committee voted against the proposal by the United States to recommend granting status to the NGO by a roll-call vote of 9 to 5, with 2 abstentions. Of the 19 members of the Committee, 16 were present and voting. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Greece, Israel, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay

Against:

Burundi, China, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Pakistan, South Africa, Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Abstaining:

India, Sudan

Absent:

Azerbaijan, Guinea, Mauritania

22. Following the vote, the representative of Nicaragua explained that her delegation had voted against the motion because the application of the NGO was relatively new and in order to reaffirm the right of Committee members to consult and to ask questions until adequate responses had been provided. She noted, in agreement with the representative of the Russian Federation, that the Committee had not made hasty decisions on other applications that remained pending before it.

23. The representative of Pakistan, affirming the right of Member States to ask questions, stated that his delegation had voted against the motion because the NGO had not exhausted all the opportunities available to it before the vote was requested and that granting consultative status would have been a hasty decision.

24. The representative of the United States expressed regret that the Committee had failed to uphold its duty by denying consultative status to an organization that was fully deserving of accreditation. She stated that the decision demonstrated the highly politicized and anti-civil society orientation of the Committee. She added that it was unfortunate that countries that were hostile to civil society in their national jurisdictions were carrying out their views through their membership in the Committee. She informed the Committee that her delegation would pursue a vote to overturn the decision at the full Council meeting and vowed to continue fighting for the rights of civil society.

25. The representative of the Russian Federation applauded the decision of the Committee, noting that the Committee had demonstrated that it was a healthy part of the United Nations. He asserted that the NGO in question was being used as a weapon

of the United States, which provided funding for it. He appealed to Member States to take measures to ensure that the decision of the Committee was upheld at the Council.

26. The observer for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea thanked the Committee members who had voted against granting consultative status to the NGO. He reiterated that the NGO was not qualified to receive consultative status because both its activities and its mandate were politically motivated.

27. The representative of Cuba responded to the statement made by the representative of the United States to clarify that the role of the Committee was not to confer consultative status, as that was the role of the Economic and Social Council, but rather to make recommendations to the Council with regard to the granting of status. He stated that the Committee had an obligation to ensure that organizations applying for consultative status complied with resolution 1996/31 and the Charter and it was therefore obliged to verify that organizations complied with those requirements, including non-interference with States or their internal affairs, which are principles of the Charter. He argued that the outcome of the vote reflected the Committee's compliance with its responsibility to conduct a thorough review of all the applications before it.

28. The representative of the United States took the floor to respond to references made by other delegations regarding her delegation's statement that it would seek a reversal of the Committee's vote before the Council. She asserted that previous reversals of the Committee's decisions by the Council were a clear indication that the Committee had failed to fulfil its obligations under resolution 1996/31. She called upon the Committee to reflect upon the message that the reversals conveyed to it and expressed confidence that the Council would reverse the decision of the Committee on the application of the NGO.

29. The representative of the Russian Federation recalled that the Committee comprised 19 member States with equal rights and argued that the United States, as a member of the Committee, should comply with the decisions of the Committee. The representative of Cuba also countered the statement made by the representative of the United States, contending that the vast majority of the recommendations of the Committee had been ratified by the Council. He reiterated that the work of the Committee had was in line with both resolution 1996/31 and the Charter and that more than 99 per cent of its recommendations had been upheld by the Council.

30. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela deplored the statement made by the United States as an affront to the other Committee members. She stated that the members the Committee had respected the questions posed by the delegation of the United States to other organizations and added that questions posed by members of the Committee should not be construed as opposition to civil society.

Iran Human Rights Documentation Centre

31. At its 11th meeting on 5 February 2018, the Committee considered the application of the non-governmental organization Iran Human Rights Documentation Centre. The representative of the United States stated that the organization was credible and undertaking important human rights work but noted that its application had been pending before the Committee since 2011. She noted that the Committee had asked the organization more than 70 questions and that the organization had patiently and competently responded to all of them. She stressed that the Committee was tasked with determining whether an NGO could make a meaningful contribution to the work of the Council and maintained that the organization in question met the criteria set out in resolution 1996/31 and therefore deserved accreditation. She introduced a motion before the Committee to recommend granting special

consultative status to the organization and appealed to other members of the Committee to support the motion.

32. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that the pseudo-NGO should have never been on the agenda of the Committee to begin with. He continued that the United States Government, however, had had the audacity to do so and as such to waste valuable time and resources of the Committee and its members. He stated that the organization was established and funded by the Government of the United States solely to manipulate the internal affairs of another Member State under the disguise of human rights. He maintained that this violated several principles of resolution 1996/31 citing, in particular, paragraph 2, on the respect for the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter, and paragraph 13, which stipulated that the basic resources of the organization "be derived in the main part from contributions of the national affiliates or other components or from individual members". He questioned how the organization, whose funding and line of accountability were attached to the generosity of the State Department and United States foreign policy, could contribute to the objectives of Council. He added that the work of the organization contradicted the ideals of the United Nations and the Council, including respect for the sovereignty of Member States. He reiterated his delegation's position that the organization was a political entity established and funded by an alien State to interfere with the internal affairs of another State that the alien State considered an adversary and should therefore not be viewed as an NGO. He regretted that the United States, despite exposing the true nature of the organization in the Committee, did not withdraw the application. He complained that, while cherry-picking and the application of double standards by the United States were not unusual, it seemed strange that, as the United States pushed for its fabricated and funded political organizations to be granted status, it continued to block the approval of NGOs from within the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added that the motion by the delegation of the United States demonstrated its intention to abuse the cause of human rights and the Committee's platform in order to advance its own political agenda, and that it was a disservice to the causes of both human rights and NGOs, which in turn undermined the work of the Committee and its credibility. He invited the United States to act responsibly and constructively and to avoid further politicizing the work of the Committee. Although his delegation encouraged further engagement of local civil society with the United Nations, namely, those within the Islamic Republic of Iran, funded by Iranians and run by Iranians for the interests of Iranians, it objected to manipulative and intrusive pseudo-NGOs created by external players with a dark history on the promotion and protection of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran and around the world. He therefore objected to the motion raised by the representative of the United States.

33. The representative of the Russian Federation recalled that his delegation had previously recommended that the organization's request for consultative status be denied by the Committee, but the decision had been delayed because the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran had posed questions to the organization. He stated that the funding of organizations by Governments to implement their own agendas undermined the concept of NGOs because it rendered them an extension of the Governments that funded them. He pointed out that, according to the organization's financial statement, it received 86 per cent of its funding from a government source and asserted that the organization was a political entity whose existence was fully dependent on government funding. He appealed to the members of the Committee to vote against the motion to recommend granting consultative status to the organization.

34. The representative of the United States regretted that the Committee had failed to reach consensus on the motion and called for a vote.

35. In response, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that the behaviour of the United States delegation reflected a larger problem the country had with regard to world affairs. He continued that the United States believed that there were two sets of rules or standards in world affairs: one for the United States and company and one for the rest of the world. He added that that premise was wrong and that peoples and States wanted to be treated equally. He continued by saying that if sovereignty were sacred for the United States, other Member States thought likewise; if interference in a United States election were a crime, then interference by the United States into other countries' elections and democratic processes should be viewed as a crime too; if racism, ethnic violence and religious intolerance were wrong in the rest of the world, the United States should also be called to account for widespread similar practices inside its territory; and if the borders of the United States should be vigilantly protected, the same right should be respected by the United States for other Member States. He reiterated his view that the activities of the organization violated the key principles of the Charter and of resolution 1996/31 and that the organization therefore did not merit consultative status. He appealed to Committee members to vote against the motion to recommend granting consultative status to the organization.

36. The observer for Canada, in a general statement before the vote, affirmed her delegation's support for the participation of civil society at the United Nations. She noted that NGOs made valuable contributions at the United Nations through local projects, expertise and access to information on the ground and stressed that the diversity of voices that they brought to the deliberations of Member States enriched the work of the United Nations. She stated that NGOs that met the criteria for accreditation should be recommended for consultative status and expressed concern that some applications had been delayed indefinitely by the Committee through the posing of extensive questions. She highlighted the case of the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center as an example, noting that the organization had applied for consultative status seven years earlier but its application had been deferred many times despite its having provided responses to the questions posed by the Committee. She pointed out that the organization's stated goal was to encourage informed dialogue on human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran and to promote accountability, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and argued that the organization met the criteria set out in resolution 1996/31 and would contribute to the work of the Council. She therefore expressed her strong support for the accreditation of the organization and appealed to all members of the Committee to support the motion to recommend it for consultative status.

37. The observer for the European Union also made a general statement in support of the motion to recommend the organization for consultative status. Recalling the general statement of the European Union at the first meeting of the Committee, he underlined the importance of giving fair and reasonable treatment to all applicants before the Committee. While noting that scrutiny of applications was an indispensable part of the process, he emphasized that legitimate organizations should be granted accreditation in a timely fashion and should only be required to answer questions that were properly motivated and aligned with resolution 1996/31.

38. The Committee voted against the proposal by the United States to recommend the organization for consultative status by a roll-call vote of 9 to 4, with 2 abstentions. Of the 19 members of the Committee, 15 were present and voting. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Greece, Israel, United States of America, Uruguay.

Against:

Burundi, China, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russian Federation, South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Abstaining:

India, Sudan

Absent:

Azerbaijan, Guinea, Mauritania, Turkey

39. Following the vote, the representative of the Russian Federation welcomed the outcome of the vote as legitimate and justified, on the basis of the activities carried out by the organization. He appealed to the representative of the United States to comply with the decision of the Committee.

40. The representative of the United States expressed regret that her delegation had been compelled to call for a vote on an organization that clearly met the criteria for Council accreditation as set out in resolution 1996/31. She stated that the decision of the Committee had demonstrated its dysfunction and hostility to genuine civil society. She stressed that the international community should create an enabling environment for civil society, both within each country and at the United Nations, and that the Committee had a critical role to play in that regard. She added that through its recommendations for granting consultative status to NGOs, the Committee could play a crucial role in giving a voice to the voiceless at the United Nations and around the world. She noted, however, that, although the Committee was tasked with recommending NGOs for consultative status, some Member States joined the Committee in order to block independent and credible NGOs while promoting government-organized NGOs. She asserted that, although the organization in question was a reputable and independent NGO, it had been asked the same question eight times for eight consecutive years in order to delay its application indefinitely. She recalled specific questions posed by the Committee related to the organization's choice of area of work and argued that the Committee's role was to determine whether an organization fulfilled the criteria set out in resolution 1996/31 and whether it could contribute to the work of the Council, not to dictate its areas of work. She stressed that the organization would undoubtedly contribute to the work of the United Nations, highlighting the fact that the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran fell squarely within the agenda of the United Nations. She also noted that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to be renewed by the Human Rights Council year after year. The fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran refused to allow the Special Rapporteur access to the country made the reporting done by NGOs such as the one in question even more relevant. She further stated that the General Assembly and the Third Committee continued to adopt annual resolutions condemning the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the latest of which, Assembly resolution 72/189, had been adopted in December 2017. She stressed that, in that regard, no one could reasonably dispute that the organization merited accreditation. Urging the members of the Committee to uphold their duties of membership and refrain from blocking NGOs, she indicated that, at the next Council meeting, her delegation would pursue a vote to overturn the refusal to recommend the organization.

41. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran thanked the members of the Committee who had voted against the motion, which he termed unreasonable and unconstructive. He stated that his delegation's view of the organization remained unchanged. He called referring to organizations that were funded or established by the United States Department of State as "legitimate NGOs" and "genuine civil society" funny. He pointed out that there were NGO applications that had been pending before the Committee for an even longer period of time, owing to questions

that had been posed by the delegation of the United States. In reaction to the reference to the human rights situation his country, he stated that the United States had more immediate interests than human rights to attend to. Recalling several measures undertaken by the United States Administration during the past year or so, he concluded that the United States had little interest in the issue of human rights and advised it to leave the protection and promotion of human rights to the people who were truly and genuinely concerned about it. He added that, during that period, the United States had continuously exerted pressure on Iranians and their human rights, including through the ridiculous and racist travel ban and the imposition of illegal and inhumane sanctions, as well as by not fulfilling its commitments under the nuclear agreement. He argued that, with such a record, few would consider opportunistic gestures made by the United States to be a genuine exercise towards the promotion and protection of human rights.

42. The representative of Cuba made a statement after the vote. He stated that, in considering applications for consultative status with the Council, his delegation respected and promoted the rights of NGOs that complied with the principles of resolution 1996/31 and the Charter. He supported the right of the Committee to ask questions in order to clarify information regarding organizations seeking consultative status, which, he argued, allowed it to ensure that only those organizations that complied with resolution 1996/31 and acted in accordance with the Charter were granted consultative status with the Council. He explained that his delegation had voted against the motion to recommend granting consultative status to the organization because it was concerned about the organization's activities against a Member State, as outlined by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

43. The representative of the United States clarified her delegation's position in response to the statement by the representative of the Russian Federation regarding her delegation's stance on the Islamic African Relief Agency. She stated that that organization had been designated under United States Executive Order 13224 for providing support to terrorists. She further stated that her Government would not support the accreditation of any designated entity. She recalled that the Committee had previously rescinded the application of the organization at its regular session in 2006 and maintained that her delegation would not support the accreditation of the organization unless it was delisted by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the United States Department of the Treasury.

44. In response, the representative of the Russian Federation recalled that the delegation of the United States had previously proposed a motion to deny consultative status to the Islamic African Relief Agency based on its designation but had indicated that the information it had on the organization's activities was classified. He therefore demanded proof of the organization's support to terrorists.

B. New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification

45. The Committee considered item 3 (b) of its agenda, New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification, at its 1st to 7th meetings, from 29th January to 1st February 2018. The Committee considered a total of 321 new applications for consultative status.

New applications recommended

46. Of the 321 NGOs whose new applications had been received, the Committee recommended that the following 200 should be granted consultative status with the Council (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (a)):

Special consultative status

21st Century Community Empowerment for Youth and Women Initiative

AAINA

ACSA

Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)

African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes Education Trust

African Law Center, Inc.

African Network of Young Leaders for Peace and Sustainable Development

African Youths Initiative on Crime Prevention

Afri-health Optonet Association

AfroPresencia.com

Ageing Nepal

Al Baqee Organization, Nfp

Alliance Vita

Al-Shafa'a Humanitarian Organization

Amazon Conservation Team

American Society of Criminology

Amis d'Afrique francophone-Bénin (AMAF-Bénin)

ANA-VIE

Asociación Cubana de Producción Animal

Asociación de Pedagogos de Cuba

Associação Brasileira de Assistência às Famílias de Crianças Portadoras de Câncer e Hemopatias (ABRACE)

Association Avenir NEPAD-Congo

Association de l'unité spéciale républicaine (ASUS RELUC)

Association de lutte contre la dépendance

Association nationale des partenaires migrants

Association pour l'amélioration des conditions de vie des prisonniers en Mauritanie

Bahjat Al-Baqir Charity Foundation

Balance Promoción para el Desarrollo y Juventud

BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society

Belediye Ve Özel İdare Çalişanlari Birliği Sendikasi

Black Alliance for Just Immigration

Blessed Aid

British Columbia Council for International Cooperation

Can-Go Afar Foundation

Caring & Living as Neighbours, Incorporated (CLAN)

Centralized Religious Organization — Muslim Religious Board of the Republic of Tatarstan

Centre de politique internationale et d'analyse des conflits (CDPIAC)

Centre for Youth and Development, Limited

Centre for Youth and Social Development

Centre intercommunautaire congolais pour les personnes avec handicap

Children of the Caribbean, Inc.

China Water Engineering Association

City2000 Youth Action International

Community Agenda for Peace, Ltd./Gte.

Community Restoration Initiative Project

Confederación Autismo España

Congregazione delle Suore Ospitaliere del Sacro Cuore di Gesù

Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba

Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, Inc.

Cooperation for Peace and Development

Corporación Equipo Colombiano Interdisciplinario de Trabajo Forense y Asistencia Psicosocial

Culture and Development East Africa

Damanhur Education

Dave Omokaro Foundation

David Lynch Foundation for Consciousness-Based Education and World Peace

Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries

Eau vive internationale

Edfu Foundation, Inc.

Educators without Borders

Environmental Justice Foundation Charitable Trust

Ethiopia Africa Black International Congress Church of Salvation

Euro Atlantic Diplomacy Society Association

Europäische Plattform für die Gewinnung unterirdischer Energie "Earth Energy", eV

Éveil

Excellent World Foundation Ltd./Gte.

Fahrzeugsystemdaten, GmbH (FSD)

Federación de Mujeres y Familias de Ámbito Rural

First Modern Agro. Tools — Common Initiative Group (FIMOATCIG)

Fondation Afrique développement international (FADI)

Fondation CIOMAL de l'Ordre de Malte (Campagne internationale de l'Ordre de Malte contre la lèpre)

Fondation Jean et Jeanne Scelles

Forum méditerranéen pour la promotion des droits du citoyen

Freehearts Africa Reach Out Foundation

Fundação Antonio Meneghetti

Fundación del Empresariado Chihuahuense, AC

Fundación Descúbreme

Fundación Educando

Giving Back Fund, Inc.

Giving Life Nature Volunteer

Global Applied Disability Research and Information Network on Employment and Training

Global Medicare Foundation

Goodness and Mercy Missions Common Initiative Group

Great Africa Youth Empowerment & Development Initiative

Greater Impact Foundation, Inc.

Guerrand Hermès Foundation for Peace

Hamraah Foundation

Hape Development & Welfare Association

Haritika

Heritage Life Buoy Foundation

Hope for the Needy Association

Human Development Initiatives

Independent Development Council

Institut international pour les droits et le développement

Instituto de Tecnologia e Sociedade

Instituto Global Attitude

Instituto São Paulo Sustentável

Integrated Regional Support Programme

International Academy of Environmental Sanitation and Public Health

International Cable Protection Committee, Limited

International Centre for Environmental Education and Community Development

International Centre for Women and Child

International Confucian Association

International Housing Coalition, Incorporated

International Relief Services

Internationale Romani Union (IRU)

Iranian Association for United Nations Studies

Iranian Institutional Investors Association

Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnati Va Salamat Iranian

Jeunes verts — Togo

Jubilee Debt Campaign

Kamer-Kadın Merkezi Eğitim Üretim Danışma, ve Dayanışma Vakfı

Kayan — Feminist Organization

Korea LOHAS Association

Kurdistan Institute for Human Rights

LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Líderes Promoviendo la Cultura de la Legalidad, AC

Living Proof Initiative for Hope

Majlis Kanser Nasional

Media Foundation for West Africa

Mijoro Mandroso (MiMa)

More Trust

Mother of Hope Cameroon Common Initiative Group

Mouvement alternatives citoyennes

Mukti Nari-O-Shishu Unnayan Sangstha

Murna Foundation

Muslims for Progressive Values

Network of Organizations Working for People with Disabilities, Pakistan

New Vision International (NVI)

Nobel Laureate Mother Teresa Charitable Trust

Nutrition & Education International

Ocean Sanctuary Alliance, Inc.

Operation Smile, Inc.

Organisation des femmes pour la formation et le développement

Organisation pour une nouvelle vision de la jeunesse d'Haïti (OPNVJH)

Organisation sociale des missionnaires pour l'éducation des enfants démunis

Österreichischer Bundesverband — Österreichische Lebens – und Rettungs – Gesellschaft

Oui pour une enfance noble

Panafrican Women Association (PAWA)

Parents-enfants maltraités — Renouveau et espérance pour les familles

Partage et action en synergie pour le développement

Partenariat français pour l'eau (PFE)

PathFinders Justice Initiative, Inc.

Patriotic Vision

Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti, Selangor

Persatuan Pengasih Malaysia

Persons with Disability Initiative, Nigeria

Public Eye, Verein auf der Grundlage der Erklärung von Bern, Bern

Queensland Advocacy, Incorporated

Radha Soami Sat Sang Beas

Rastriya Adiwasi Janajati Mahila Manch Nepal

Reachout and Smile Initiative for Social Empowerment

Rehabilitation International — Arab Region

Reseau d'intervention pour la protection et promotion de l'enfant et famille dans la communauté

Resource Centre for Environmental and Sustainable Development

Resource Institute of Social Education

Reyada for Capacity-Building Studies & Consultations

Ruh Sağlığında İnsan Hakları Girişimi Derneği

Rural Care Ministries, Jupudi

Sahara Economic Development Organization

Sankalpa — Women Alliance for Peace and Democracy

Save Cambodia

SDSN Association, Inc.

Semilla Warunkwa

Shalva — The Israel Association for Care and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, RA

Shola Mese Foundation

Shorab Ali Dewan Cultural Society

SIETAR Austria/Gesellschaft für interkulturelle Bildung, Training und Forschung

Silatech

Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association

Social Activities for Environment (SAFE)

SPHER International, Ltd.

Sudan Volunteers Organization for Human Rights and Development

Suivi des couvents vodoun et conservation du patrimoine occulte (SUCOVEPO)

Support Women Initiatives to Transform Children

Tarhuk Samaj

Terra Renaissance

The Arab Chamber of Commerce & Industry

The Athena Fund — Laptop Computer for Each Teacher

The Bahrain Young Ladies Association

The Foundation for AIDS Research

The Global Alliance for TB Drug Development, Inc.

The Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

The Order of St. Stanislas, eV/Der Orden des Heiligen Stanislaus, eV

The PsySiP Project

The Vision for Teenagers Adolescents and Youths Wellbeing Initiative

The Youth Coalition for Education in Liberia, Inc. (YOCEL)

Together for Safer Roads, Inc.

Truth in Reality, Inc.

Udayan Care

UNESCO Center for Peace

Union internationale des transports publics

University College Dublin

Unspoken Smiles Foundation

Voice of Animal — Nepal

We Yone Child Foundation Sierra Leone

Welfare

World Protection for Dogs and Cats in the Meat Trade

Young Diplomats of Canada

Youth Foundation of Bangladesh

Youth Reformation and Awareness Centre

New applications deferred

47. The Committee deferred its consideration of the applications of the following 121 organizations, pending the receipt of responses to questions posed to them by the Committee during its 2018 regular session:

"İqtisadi və Sosial İnkişaf Mərkəzi" ictimai birliyi

28. Jun

Al-Anwar Al Najafia Foundation for Culture and Development

Alianza Americas

Al-Imdaad Trust

Anciens esclaves nouveaux citoyens

ARYAB HATT SEVA SANSTHAN

ASPAM Foundation

Association canadienne pour le droit et la vérité

Association du développement communautaire en Mauritanie

Association mauritanienne d'appui aux nécessiteux

Association Najdeh

Association pour la diffusion des droits humains aux peuples autochtones — Humanitarian Law Agency

Canadian Human Rights International Organization (CHRIO)

Centre for Gender Justice and Women Empowerment

Cercle Martin Buber

Chin Human Rights Organization

Chinese Culture Promotion Society

Citizen Association Health Education and Research Association (HERA)

Club des amis de la moughataa de Moudjeria

Coalition of African Lesbians (CAL)

Community Initiatives for Development in Pakistan (CIDP)

Concord — Sverige

Cooperación Internacional

Direct Focus Community Aid

Dream Makers for North Korea (DMNK, Mulmangcho)

Drug Reform Coordination Network, Inc.

Empower

European Grassroots Antiracist Movement (EGAM)

European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS)

Faithful Covenant Foundation

Federal Bar Association

Friends of Angola

Global Dialogue Foundation Australia, Limited

Global Interfaith WASH Alliance India

Global Utmaning

Goringhaicona Khoi Khoin Indigenous Traditional Council

Great Run Africa

Hamkkehaneun Sarangbat Corporation

Hardwired, Incorporated

Healthier Hearts Foundation

Hellenic Initiative, Inc.

Hope Ek ASHA

Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team United States, Incorporated

Individual Land Trust

International Action Network for Gender Equity and Law

International Association of Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection

International Integration Bond

International Public Foundation "Roza Otunbayeva Initiative"

International Youth Committee

International Youth Council — Yemen Chapter (IYCY)

Jamia Islamiya Umar Faruk Charitable Trust Solapur

Juridisk Rådgivning for Kvinner

Justice Centre Hong Kong, Limited

Kaleidoscope Human Rights Foundation, Ltd.

Lawyers for Justice in Libya

Le collectif de la paix au Sri Lanka

Legal Action Worldwide

Ligue mauritanienne pour l'appui aux initiatives associatives

Lion Damien Club

Markengee Home for Orphans and Widows

Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture

Mittetulundusühing G-Global Development Community

Mother Helpage (UK)

Namati, Inc.

National Committee on BRICS Research

Nepperhan Community Center, Inc.

NIGH World

Nonprofit Partnership "Strategic Partnership with the Islamic World"

Operation Hope, Inc.

Operation Underground Railroad, Inc.

Organisation aide et action international

Organisation Attawassoul pour la santé, la femme et l'enfant

Organisation internationale pour l'avancement politique des Africaines (OIAPA)

Organisation suisse d'aide aux réfugiés

Organisation tunisienne de développement social

Otro Tiempo México, Asociación Civil

Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations

Palestinian Association for Human Rights — Witness

Patiala Foundation

Peace Development Fund

People's Cultural Centre

Perkins School for the Blind

Pólis Instit.de Estudos Forma e Asses.em Políti.Sociais

Professional Evaluation & Certification Board (PECB) — Educational & Welfare Society

Recreation Vehicle Industry Association, Inc.

Regional Centre for International Development Cooperation, Limited by Guarantee

Reproductive Health Matters

Rohingya League, Ltd.

Sadhana

Sahipkıran Stratejik Araştırmalar Merkezi

Savera Society for Human Initiatives

Sierra Leone Campus Civitan International

Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior

SOS Exclus pour la protection et l'épanouissement de la famille, de l'enfant et des personnes vulnérables

SOS Urgence

Stichting Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict

Stichting Mama Cash

Talent Incubator

The Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Foundation, Inc. (CHT Foundation)

The Dame Jane Foundation

The Denis & Lenora Foretia Foundation, Inc.

The First Community Christian Pentecostal Church of God, Inc.

The National Alliance of Women (NAWO)

The Reproductive and Family Health Association of Fiji (RFHAF)

The Small Earth Nepal

The Task Force for Global Health, Inc.

Tom Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice

Transnational Anti-Organized Crime Intelligence Group, Inc. (TAOC-IG)

Trocaire

Vishnu Dayal Shiksha Samiti

Women Information Network

Women's Refugee Commission, Inc.

Wonder Foundation

Word of Life International, Inc.

World Fund for Development and Planning (WFDP)

World Youth Organization

Wynad Social Service Society

Young Global Leadership Foundation, Inc.

Young Professionals in Foreign Policy

Requests for reclassification

48. At its 7th and 12th meetings, on 1 and 5 February, the Committee considered six requests for reclassification of consultative status, including two new requests, as contained in document E/C.2/2018/R.3, and four deferred requests, as contained in document E/C.2/2018/CRP.2. It recommended the reclassification of International Federation of Consular Corps and Associations from the Roster to special consultative status (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (b)) and decided to defer its consideration of the application for reclassification of status of the following five organizations, pending the receipt of responses to questions posed by the Committee:

Global Economist Forum

International Campaign to Ban Landmines

The Sant Nirankari Mandal, Delhi

Universal Peace Federation

Widows for Peace through Democracy

C. Request for a merger and other matters

Request for a merger

49. At its 13th meeting, on 6 February, the Committee considered item 3 (c), Applications of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that have merged with non-governmental organizations without such consultative status. It had before it one deferred application for a merger of the Social Service Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany (in special consultative status) with the Protestant Development Service (organization not in status with the Council) to form the Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development (PADD), as contained in document E/C.2/2018/CRP.3. It decided to further defer its consideration of the application, pending the receipt of responses to questions posed by the Committee.

Requests for a change of name

50. At its 15th meeting, on 7 February, the Committee considered item 6 (c), Other related matters. It had before it eight new requests for a change of name by organizations in consultative status, as contained in document E/C.2/2018/CRP.5. It decided to take note of the change of name of four of the organizations (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (c)) and to defer its consideration of the request for a change of name by the following four organizations, pending the receipt of responses to questions posed by the Committee:

Disarm Education Fund, Inc. (special, 2012) to Global Health Partners, Inc.

Law Enforcement against Prohibition Educational Fund (special, 2014) to Law Enforcement Action Partnership, Inc.

Track Impunity Always (TRIAL)/Association suisse contre l'impunité (special, 2009) to TRIAL International

United States Asian American Law Enforcement Foundation, Inc. (special, 2011) to International Law Enforcement Federation

51. At the same meeting, the Committee considered one request for change of name by an organization in consultative status deferred from previous sessions of the Committee, as contained in document E/C.2/2018/CRP.6. It decided to take note of the change of name of the organization (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (c)).

Requests for withdrawal of consultative status

52. At its 15th meeting, on 7 February, also under item 6 (c), the Committee took note of the request for withdrawal of consultative status by the following NGOs, as contained in document E/C.2/2018/CRP.33 (see chap. I, draft decision II):

Asociación de Técnicos Superiores y Peritos Judiciales de Andalucía

Honeypot Village

Partnership Network International

III. Quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council

A. Quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council that had been deferred at the resumed session

53. At its 14th meeting on 6 February 2018, the Committee considered agenda item 4 (a), Deferred quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council. It had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing a compilation of 82 quadrennial reports submitted by NGOs in general and special consultative status on their activities during the period 2002–2017, which had been deferred from previous sessions of the Committee (E/C.2/2018/CRP.4). Of the 82 reports, the Committee took note of the 16 reports of the following 15 organizations (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (d)):

British Overseas NGOs for Development (BOND) (2012–2015)

Centrist Democratic International (1998–2001)

Centrist Democratic International (2002–2005)

CIVICUS — World Alliance for Citizen Participation (2012–2015)

Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI) (2011–2014)

International Commission of Jurists (2009–2012)

International Social Service (2011–2014)

Iraqi Development Organization (2012–2015)

Nonviolent Peaceforce (2011–2014)

Physicians for Human Rights (2011–2014)

Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (2011–2014)

Sulabh International (2011–2014)

The World Habitat Foundation (2012–2015)

United Methodist Church — General Board of Global Ministries (2012–2015)

Universal Peace Federation (2012–2015)

US Human Rights Network, Inc. (2012–2015)

54. The Committee decided to further defer consideration of the 66 deferred quadrennial reports submitted by the following 55 organizations:

American Psychological Association (2012–2015)

Amnesty International (2008–2011)

Amnesty International (2012–2015)

Armenian Assembly of America (2007–2010)

Armenian Assembly of America (2011–2014)

Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (2012–2015)

Catholics for Choice (2010–2013)

Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir (2009–2012)

Centrist Democratic International (2006–2009)

Centrist Democratic International (2010–2013)

Christian Conference of Asia (2012–2015)

Club of Madrid (COM) (2011–2014)

Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches (2012–2015)

Cross-Cultural Solutions (2011–2014)

EarthRights International (2008–2011)

Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (2010–2013)

Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (2012–2015)

Federación Internacional de Fe y Alegría (2011–2014)

France libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand (2007–2010)

France libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand (2011–2014)

Freedom House (2007–2010)

Freedom House (2011–2014)

Global Environmental Action (GEA) (2009–2012)

Heritage Foundation (2011–2014)

Human Rights House Foundation (2011–2014)

Human Rights Watch (2009–2012)

Institute of Inter-Balkan Relations (2010–2013)

International Association for Religious Freedom (2011–2014)

International Council on Social Welfare (2012–2015)

International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (2012–2015)

International Federation of Journalists (2005–2008)

International Federation of Journalists (2009–2012)

International PEN (2006–2009)

International Press Institute (2001–2004)

International Press Institute (2005–2008)

International Press Institute (2009–2012)

International Service for Human Rights (2011–2014)

International Union of Socialist Youth (2005–2008)

Lawyers without Borders (2012–2015)

Mahila Dakshata Samiti (2012–2015)

Médecins sans frontières (International) (2012–2015)

Minhaj-ul-Quran International (2011–2014)

Minority Rights Group (2012–2015)

National Council of Women of Thailand (2000–2003)

Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement — International (OISCA) (2011–2014)

Pathfinder International (2011–2014)

People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (2012–2015)

Redress Trust (2011–2014)

Reporters sans frontières international/Reporters without Borders International (2005–2008)

Reporters sans frontières international/Reporters without Borders International (2009–2012)

Robert F Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (2009–2012)

Simon Wiesenthal Center (2011–2014)

Simply Help, Inc. (2009–2012)

Temple of Understanding (2011–2014)

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (2011–2014)

Ukrainian World Congress (2003–2006)

Ukrainian World Congress (2007–2010)

Ukrainian World Congress (2011–2014)

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (2009–2012)

Women for Women's Human Rights — New Ways (2009–2012)

World Council of Arameans (Syriacs) (2007–2010)

World Council of Independent Christian Churches (2012–2015)

World Hunger Year, Inc. (2012–2015)

World Jewish Congress (2011–2014)

World Organisation against Torture (2010–2013)

World Vision International (2012–2015)

B. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council

55. At its 13th and 14th meetings, on 6 February 2018, the Committee considered agenda item 4 (b), Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council. It had before it notes by the Secretary-General containing 412 new quadrennial reports (E/C.2/2018/2, E/C.2/2018/2/Add.1 and E/C.2/2018/2/Add.2, and E/C.2/2018/CRP.7-32). The Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of 394 of the organizations (see chap. I, draft decision 1, subpara. (d)). The Committee decided to defer consideration of the reports of the following 18 organizations:

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (2013–2016)

Equality Now (2013–2016)

Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine (FPU) (2013–2016)

Habitat International Coalition (2013–2016)

Homosexuelle Initiative Wien (2013–2016)

Human Rights Watch (2013–2016)

International Federation of Journalists (2013–2016)

International Press Institute (2013–2016)

Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights (JKCHR) (2013–2016)

Lawyers for Lawyers (2013–2016)

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (2013–2016)

Miroslava International Alliance (2013–2016)

Open Society Institute (2013–2016)

Reporters sans frontières international/Reporters without Borders International (2013–2016)

Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung — Gesellschaftsanalyse und Politische Bildung, eV (2013–2016)

Scholars at Risk Network (2013–2016)

Society for Threatened Peoples (2013–2016)

Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik (2013–2016)

IV. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat

56. At its 1st meeting, on 29 January, the Committee jointly considered agenda item 5, Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and agenda item 8, General voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network, and heard oral reports made by the Secretariat.

57. The Branch highlighted the sharp increase in applications by NGOs for consultative status in recent years. This was attributed to the strong interest of NGOs in contributing to the work of the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development. The increase in applications had led to a surge in the volume of work for both the Branch and the Committee, notably in the processing of applications and quadrennial reports from NGOs by the Branch and their consideration by the Committee. The Branch stressed that there was an urgent need to secure additional human and advanced technical resources to enable both the Secretariat and the Committee to deal effectively with the growing workload. In addition, the integrated Civil Society Organizations (iCSO) database and the Civil Society Network (CSO-Net) platform, which were developed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in 2008 to facilitate communications with NGOs and to process applications for consultative status, need to be updated. Under the circumstances, the potential for a backlog in the submission of applications had increased significantly, leading to inordinate delays for NGOs in obtaining consultative status with the Council, as highlighted by the Director of the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination in his opening statement. The Committee was therefore urged to consider ways to support the Branch's efforts to enable it to fully meet its obligations under resolution 1996/31.

V. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304

58. At its 12th meeting on 5 February, the Committee held a formal discussion on improving its working methods. In his introductory remarks, the Chair highlighted the increasing number of applications and quadrennial reports under review by the Committee and invited Committee members to share their views on several aspects of its work, including how it could adjust its working methods to absorb its increased workload; how the informal meetings of the Committee could be used to accelerate the pace at the formal meetings; and what steps the Committee could take to ensure a fruitful dialogue with the NGO community in implementing paragraph 61 of resolution 1996/31.

59. The representative of India expressed her delegation's concern regarding an existing gap in the scrutiny of NGO applications, whereby entities with links to terrorism and designated under the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List could be recommended for accreditation with the Council. She cited a previous case where the accreditation of an NGO recommended for consultative status by the Committee had been reversed by the Economic and Social Council after its links to terrorism were established. She urged the Secretariat to undertake due diligence by comparing the applications for consultative status against the individuals and entities designated under the Sanctions List before submitting them to the Committee. She also recommended that antecedents of founders and office-bearers of NGOs be cross-checked with the Sanctions List and that such information be shared with the Committee to inform its decisions.

60. The representative of the United States delivered a statement on behalf of Australia, Canada, Chile, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Lichtenstein, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Switzerland, Uruguay and the European Union. She expressed strong support for improving the working methods of the Committee in order to give civil society a voice in the United Nations system. She stressed that NGOs played an important role as the eyes and ears on the ground and were an invaluable resource for reporting. She expressed regret that the Committee continued to hinder their participation. She asserted that delays in granting accreditation to NGOs and other

challenges undermined the effectiveness and reputation of the Committee. She stressed the importance of NGOs being able to address Committee sessions and encouraged efforts to make the Committee more accessible. In that regard, she welcomed the consultations that were scheduled to be held between the Committee and NGOs in consultative status, in accordance with resolution 1996/31. She also expressed concern about excessive and repetitive questions posed by the Committee which, she stated, delayed the accreditation of credible NGOs that could contribute to the work of the Council and the United Nations. She called upon the Secretariat to reaffirm the mandate of the Committee and the criteria for the establishment of consultative status. She urged Member States to limit their questions to matters directly related to those criteria and to avoid asking repeated questions to NGOs even after the answers had been given. She further voiced concern about the practice of deferring quadrennial reports of NGOs when the role of the Committee should be to simply take note of them. She stated that the current application process for consultative status is onerous and contributes to the delay in accreditation and suggested that the Committee establish a working group to revise the application form with clearer questions and guidelines, in order to minimize the length of time for approval of applications and the number of questions asked during the Committee sessions. She expressed the hope that strict time limits would continue to be used to ensure that all applications before the Committee were considered.

61. The representative of the Russian Federation stated that the one minute allotted for the Committee to review applications was not sufficient and that more time was required to consider each application. He thanked the Secretariat for providing the list of applications to the Committee earlier than in previous years, noting that this allowed for more careful consideration and reduced the time needed to review the applications during sessions. He expressed concern about the increasing number of applications and quadrennial reports and its impact on the Secretariat's workload. He encouraged the Secretariat to seek additional support from the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management through an increase in working days, funds or human resources, such as a seconded computer engineer. He noted that the Committee required more computers and suggested that the Secretariat approach established NGOs that held status with the Council for support in that regard. Finally, he asked the Secretariat to provide details to Member States about its resource needs, including any additional staff required, to build up its capacity to deal with the increased workload and indicated that the Committee would support the Secretariat's appeal for resources.

62. He asserted that his delegation had been informed that a Committee member had tried to informally exert pressure on the Secretariat. He stated that that was unacceptable and requested that the Secretariat officially inform the Committee when that occurred. He suggested that it was important to rotate the chairmanship of the Committee and to ensure that all members of the Bureau had been elected before dealing with applications.

63. The representative of Cuba stated that the high number of NGOs with consultative status (4,872 as of September 2017) demonstrated the Committee's effectiveness in dealing with copious information. He stressed that it was important for the Committee to ask questions as that allowed members to clarify concerns they may have and to make informed decisions with regard to the applications before them. He noted that many NGOs obtained status after several years of review. However, he was not opposed to closing applications that had been under review for several years owing to a lack of consensus among the Member States. He emphasized that there should be a balance between the number of applications from the North and the South and that the Committee should not review more than 200 new applications per session. He also pointed out the effectiveness of classifying applications into two lists. In

addition, he stressed the role of the Secretariat in providing guidance to the Chair, in particular when the Committee voted on a specific matter.

64. He further stressed that the role of the Committee was not to grant accreditation by default, but rather to examine each application responsibly to see whether the NGO complied with resolution 1996/31 and whether its actions were in line with the principles of the Charter. In that regard, he welcomed the fact that the majority of the members were fully applying the spirit of the resolution. He was, however, concerned that some Committee members did not apply the rules and did not seem to be interested in following them, which resulted in delays in completing the agenda of the Committee and conveyed the wrong idea about its work. He agreed with the view that the Committee needed more than one minute to review each application. He expressed regret that the spirit of conflict prevailed in the Committee, adding that that projected an erroneous view of the Committee and hindered its work. Regarding the review of the quadrennial reports, he stated that the Committee had the right to ask questions in order to verify their compliance with the Charter. He affirmed his delegation's commitment to addressing the issues related to the working methods of the Committee in formal or informal meetings within the Committee as a whole, without creating a working group. He welcomed the consultations scheduled to be held with NGOs in consultative status, which was in line with resolution 1996/31, but requested clarification about the note circulated by the Chair to Committee members in January 2018. He suggested that the Chair hold informal consultations with the Committee members about the document after he received feedback from Member States. Lastly, he stated that he needed to clarify that his delegation had not requested that formal discussions be held on the working methods of the Committee but rather that the agenda, which the Committee adopted every session and which contained an item on working methods, be followed to completion.

65. The representative of China emphasized the Committee's right and responsibility to exercise diligence in its evaluation of NGOs, in line with the criteria laid out in resolution 1996/31. Setting an arbitrary time limit to review each application was not realistic because the situation of the organizations varied and the Committee might require different amounts of time to consider each application. He expressed the view that the work of the Committee was quite efficient considering the high number of NGOs that had been accredited and agreed that the review of the methods of work should be discussed during the formal sessions of the Committee. He added that the Committee should not become a forum for delivering general statements. Organizations in consultative status should focus on how to make a substantive contribution to the work of the Council and the United Nations. Regarding the quadrennial reports, he stated that Committee members had the responsibility to consider the reports carefully and to raise questions. The NGOs should pay more attention to the questions raised by the Committee and should answer them on time, instead of ignoring them. He stressed that the issue of how to engage in dialogue with NGOs should be implemented only after consensus was reached among members of the Committee.

66. The representative of Turkey reiterated her delegation's support to the active participation and involvement of NGOs. She stated that the sharp increase in the number of applications and quadrennial reports made it more important to use the Committee's time in the most efficient way and rationalize its methods of work. She reminded the Committee of its right and responsibility to exercise diligence in its evaluation of the NGOs, in line with the criteria laid out in resolution 1996/31. She suggested that the informal sessions of the Committee be convened closer to the formal sessions, to allow for more time to review the new applications and to foster greater productivity during the formal sessions. She suggested that the templates for applications and quadrennial reporting could benefit from some revision and updating

to include contemporary elements, such as the relevance of the work of an NGO to the Sustainable Development Goals. She further suggested that the Committee work on that with the technical support of the Secretariat, including by means of a working group. She noted that the Secretariat's practice of sending notifications to permanent missions regarding applications of NGOs based in their countries was useful and stressed that that correspondence should be carried out in advance of the sessions.

67. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran underscored the importance of the genuine and legitimate participation of civil society and NGOs towards sustainable development, peace and human rights. He highlighted the relevance and functionality of the Committee, noting that approximately 5,000 NGOs had been received status to date. He expressed his delegation's concern regarding the misuse by certain Member States of the concept of civil society as a cover for carrying out intrusive foreign policy objectives. He observed that the working process and increasing workload of the Committee was frustrating for NGOs, the Secretariat and the Member States alike and indicated that the review of methods of work should focus on bringing the work of the Committee in line with the provisions of resolution 1996/31. He noted that the Committee's review process was currently missing criteria to properly evaluate whether organizations complied with the principles set out in resolution 1996/31, in particular paragraphs 2, 9, 13, 20 and 25. He cited as an example that the accreditation of NGOs that received funding from foreign Governments went against paragraph 13. He also questioned the number of NGOs that complied with paragraph 9 which required organizations that receive status to be of recognized standing in their field. He further questioned the Committee's capacity to measure whether accredited NGOs were making a significant contribution to the work of the Council, in accordance with paragraph 20. He added that the Committee had not been able to apply paragraph 25 in its scrutiny of NGOs dealing with human rights issues.

68. He proposed that the Committee increase the participation of non-members and observer States in its work and suggested opening up the restricted information portal to all Member States as a way of increasing the Committee's transparency and openness. Regarding the Committee's paperless system, he suggested maintaining only two lists for applications — new and deferred — and deleting the lists of applications by country of origin by simply adding a column in the lists of new and deferred applications to indicate the country of origin. He expressed his delegation's support for the suggestion to have more than one minute to review each application and for closing applications that had been on the agenda for a long time. He also supported limiting the number of new applications to 200 or to a specific number agreed upon by the Committee to facilitate better planning of its workload. He requested that the Secretariat take the North-South balance into consideration when preparing the list of new applications and requested a briefing from the Secretariat on the Committee's scheduled consultations with NGOs.

69. The representative of Uruguay stressed the important role of the Committee and affirmed her country's support for the role of civil society in promoting independent perspectives to public policy and in supporting policy implementation at the regional and local levels. She underlined the importance of transparency and recalled that her delegation, jointly with those of Mexico and Chile, had recommended the webcasting of the Committee's work. She noted that the webcasting had not only promoted transparency and better monitoring of the Committee's work, but had also strengthened NGO involvement in and access to that work. She proposed the establishment of an informal working group to review and possibly modify the application form for consultative status in order to address the concerns raised by various delegations.

70. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterated his country's commitment to the important role of NGOs and their contribution to the work of the United Nations. He expressed concern about attempts to weaken the work of the Committee, which, he stated, undermined the Charter and impeded the Committee's ability to implement resolution 1996/31. He stressed that it was important for Member States to ask questions to NGOs to obtain clarification. He expressed his delegation's openness to consider proposals aimed at promoting the participation of NGOs from the South and setting appropriate time limits to review applications, noting that the Committee had not had enough time to do so. He also proposed providing more information or guidance to NGOs when they filled out the application form or responded to questions, as some of them provided incomplete or evasive answers. He concluded by reiterating that the work of the Committee and its membership should be respected so that its recommendations could help the United Nations, which was the end goal.

71. The Chair thanked all the delegates for a fruitful discussion and suggested continuing the discussion on the working methods through informal consultations to be held prior to the 2018 resumed session.

VI. Consideration of special reports and complaints by Member States

72. No special reports were submitted to the regular session.

VII. Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

73. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations held its 2018 regular session from 29 January to 7 February and on 23 February. The Committee held 16 meetings.

74. The session was opened by the Vice Chair of the 2017 session of the Committee, Farid Jabrayilov (Azerbaijan).

75. At the 1st meeting, on 29 January, the Chair of the Committee made a statement, followed by an introductory statement by the Director of the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination.

76. At the same meeting, the representative of Israel took the floor and made a statement regarding the important role of civil society in the international arena. She stated that the contributions of civil society enriched the discussions of Member States by providing on-the-ground perspectives, thereby helping them to reach better outcomes. Stressing that the work of the Committee was important and vital, she called for a collaborative and efficient approach to its work and welcomed the request by the delegation of Cuba to hold formal discussions on the working methods of the Committee. She further welcomed the decision of the Council to webcast the proceedings of the Committee as a positive step that would increase transparency and understanding of the Committee's work.

77. The observer for the European Union made a general statement highlighting the important role of civil society in supporting policy debates, monitoring the impact of government policy and action and, in many instances, serving as a voice for the voiceless. Noting that civil society was a diverse and multifaceted part of society, he stated that the diversity of voices should be heard by governments, regional and

international organizations including the United Nations. He underlined that NGOs were indispensable partners to the UN who play an invaluable role in helping the United Nations reach its goals. He stressed the pivotal role of the Committee in ensuring the optimal functioning of the United Nations and stated that it was incumbent upon the Committee to empower NGOs in the implementation of resolution 1996/31. While noting that scrutiny of applications for Council accreditation was an indispensable part of the process, he stated that fair and reasonable consideration should be given to all applications and that accreditation should be granted to legitimate organizations in a timely fashion. He welcomed the consultations to be held between the Committee and NGOs in consultative status in fulfilment of resolution 1996/31 and expressed support for efforts to ensure that the work of the Committee was fair and transparent. He noted that the Committee had debated over the appropriateness of interventions by civil society during its proceedings and encouraged the Committee to demonstrate its readiness to hear NGO voices, adding that openness would only bolster the credibility of the Committee's work.

78. Following the statement by the European Union, a representative from civil society asked to make a statement to the Committee.

79. The representative of China objected to a member of civil society addressing the Committee. The representative of the United States objected to the objection, stating that the international community had an obligation to create an enabling environment for civil society to work within the United Nations. She further stated that, under resolution 1996/31, NGOs with consultative status had the right to address the Committee and the Council and that the Committee had permitted them to speak in the past. She therefore expressed concern about the reversal of the Committee's practice.

80. The representative of Uruguay affirmed her country's firm support to the right of representatives of civil society to be heard at meetings of the Committee. She cited precedents when a representative of civil society had addressed the Committee on behalf of more than 200 NGOs and expressed concern that some members of the Committee continued to oppose the right of civil society to be heard. She stated that the reversal of previous practice was a regressive development in the Committee's transparency and its interaction with NGOs. She affirmed that Uruguay, as a member of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group, was of the view that the contribution of NGOs would improve the work of the Committee, adding that the right of civil society to be heard was supported by paragraph 32 of resolution 1996/31 and rule 84 of the rules of procedure.

81. The observer for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland also affirmed her country's commitment to the protection of civil society space worldwide, noting that a healthy, vibrant, free and efficient civil society not only acted as a safeguard for human rights but also contributed to a country's security and prosperity. She emphasized that civil society contributed to the agendas of the United Nations through their expertise, new ideas and valuable perspectives and stated that her country was disappointed that an NGO had not been allowed to address the Committee. She added that the work of the United Nations would benefit from diversity and the participation of all partners. She underlined that the increasing volume of applications for consultative status made the work of the Committee in reviewing applications efficiently even more necessary and called upon the Committee to facilitate greater NGO access to the United Nations in fulfilment of its mandate to promote greater civil society participation. She stated that the Committee should apply the principles of non-discrimination, equality, participation and accountability contained in resolution 1996/31 in implementing its functions. She therefore welcomed the decision of the Council to webcast the work of the

Committee, noting that online access had provided an opportunity for civil society participation and had shone a light on the Committee's decision-making processes. She expressed concern that some applications had languished before the Committee for several years and noted that there was a disproportionate rate of deferral for organizations working on human rights. She further stated that applications by diverse organizations should be granted equal consideration in an efficient and transparent manner. She welcomed the Committee's preparations for consultations with NGOs in accordance with paragraph 61 (a) of resolution 1996/31.

B. Attendance

82. The session was attended by all 19 members of the Committee. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, observers for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and of NGOs also attended. The list of participants will be issued in document E/C.2/2018/INF/1.

83. At its 2018 regular session, the Committee heard 24 representatives of NGOs, who were given the opportunity to respond to questions raised by the Committee. The additional information provided by the representatives facilitated the debate and the work of the Committee in taking its decisions.

C. Election of officers

84. At its 1st meeting, on 29 January, the Committee elected Jorge Dotta (Uruguay) as Chair of the Committee.

85. Also at the 1st meeting, the Committee elected Ceren Hande Özgür (Turkey) as Vice-Chair of the Committee. At its 11th meeting, on 5 February, it elected Farid Jabrayilov (Azerbaijan), as Vice-Chair of the Committee. Two Vice-Chairs remained to be elected.

86. Also at its 11th meeting, the Committee took note of the announcement made by the Chair that Mr. Jabrayilov had also agreed to serve as Rapporteur of the Committee.

D. Agenda

87. At its 1st meeting, on 29 January 2018, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its 2018 session, as contained in document E/C.2/2018/1. The agenda reads as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations:
   (a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee;
   (b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification;
   (c) Applications of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that have merged with non-governmental organizations without such consultative status.

4. Quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:

   (a) Deferred quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council;

   (b) Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council.

5. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat.

6. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304:

   (a) Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations;

   (b) Consideration of issues on the agenda of the informal working group;

   (c) Other related matters.

7. Consideration of special reports.

8. General voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network.

9. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2019 session of the Committee.

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its 2018 session.

VIII. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its 2018 regular session

88. At its 15th meeting, on 7 February 2018, the Committee took note of the draft report and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report with the support of the Secretariat and in consultation with the members of the Committee, as appropriate, with a view to its submission to the Economic and Social Council for appropriate action.

89. At its 16th meeting, on 23 February 2018, the Committee adopted the present report.